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NEWS BULLETIN AND PRICE LIST

SUNNY RIDGE NURSERY, JANUARY, 1944

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(LOOK FOR BOOK NEWS ON PAGE 5)

THEY DO BEAR NUTS!

Do you want to buy a chestnut tree no taller than you are which has already produced nuts? We have those trees!

Here are passages from unsolicited letters.

"Red Bank, N. J., Oct. 8, 1941 — On April 17, 1939, we bought two chestnut trees from you which are bearing fruit this year, and we like them very much. We would like to obtain more."

Another customer writes, 9/27/41, Hancock, Md. — "One of my greatest joys was to pick up five chestnuts under your Chinese chestnut tree; a squirrel beat me to three nuts."

Those trees were planted in 1941, but were unusually precocious. You may expect our chestnut trees to bear sooner than apples if given as good care as the apple requires.

THE THRILL OF GATHERING NUTS

I fully understand the thrill of these two middle aged professional men at picking up chestnuts. Ripening chestnuts are beautiful things. It thrills me to walk through the nursery in September and October and see the glossy brown nuts peeping out of opening burrs and to find nice nuts on the ground.

My satisfaction at this has no relation to such earthly matters as eating. Nut trees are fun, as well as food supply. They give you a sense of achievement when you see them produce their nuggets of nutrition.

I gave two seedling trees to one of my suburban neighbors some years ago. Now you would almost think he was a bantam rooster to hear him crowing about the chestnuts he gets. He has a lot of fun giving nuts to his friends. And incidentally he sends his friends to me to buy trees so that they too may join the group of the sentimentally elect.

WAR AND ACTS OF GOD

Perhaps you have read one of those insurance policies which exempts the company from responsibility from acts of war and acts of God. Unfortunately there is no such protective umbrella over the heads of nurserymen, particularly nut tree nurserymen.

We have been struck by both war and acts of God.

War has increased the cost of our materials and supplies, made some unavailable.

War just exactly doubled the rate of day's wages for workmen in the last 30 months, and worse than that, it has materially reduced the available supply.

War has cut off our sources of seed for some important varieties.

The act of God aspect of the matter showed up in the form of a drought in the summer of 1943 which greatly reduced the catch of our spring grafting and kept the trees from making half of the expected growth. It also killed thousands of late transplanted seedlings because we could not water them. Labor shortage kept us from planting them at the right time.

For these and other reasons we are in something that approaches a nut tree famine. Our stocks are low and in some lines already sold out. Send in your orders as early as you can. You will get trees or your money back.

CUTTING BACK

Nut trees have prodigious roots — roots that are long and not fibrous. We have to cut away some of this long root before we send your trees. To plant a tree with only part of its roots and all of its top is to invite early death. Therefore we cut the tops back to establish balance and to help insure the success of transplanting. Therefore you need not expect the trees to be very handsome on arrival, but wait until growth begins and then admire and when the nuts begin you will rejoice.

WAXED TRUNKS

We wax the trunk with a special and expensive wax, to reduce evaporation. The price of this unguent has jumped to 3 dollars a gallon but we keep on using it. We think it increases the chance of survival.

POLLENATION

So far as we know everything that we sell except mulberry and persimmon has better chance of yielding if it has a partner of same species and different variety to pollenate the blossoms—except that black walnut or any other walnut will pollenate English walnut and filbert will pollenate hazel.

1 CHINESE CHESTNUTS TO THE FORE. Each year that I experiment with Chinese Chestnuts my opinion of them rises. Chestnuts are certainly the most productive of all nut trees. They are also the most precocious. Each of the other nut trees has its especial merits but in these two the chestnuts lead. The parent trees from which we propagate are the carefully selected best out of many thousands of seedling trees. They will bear nuts as soon as apple or peach tree bears fruit. Occasionally one bears the year it is set out. What about the quality of the nuts? Well the very conservative Mr. C. A. Reed, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, has said this:

“The best of the Chinese chestnuts are without peers among known chestnuts from any part of the world.”

I have been pleased to learn that Chinese chestnut trees from Sunny Ridge have done well at Plattsburg, New York. This is on Lake Champlain, close to the Canadian boundry and North of the Adirondack Mountains, latitude $44\frac{3}{4}$ degrees North.

In the spring of 1939 we transplanted some chestnut trees. They were three and four feet high. Now the trees are 6, 7, and 8 feet high with spreading tops. Nearly all bore well in 1942 and again in 1943. Unfortunately, these trees are too large to transplant safely but their record is one that you may duplicate if you give the trees a chance.

Another lot of tall, straight, slender Zimmerman were transplanted in 1940. They are 8-10 feet tall, with small, high tops. Many of them bore in 1942 and again in 1943. We think this lot will transplant all right. They have not had time to make large tops. Price \$6.50 each. Ask for special Lot A. Distance apart, 30 to 40 feet.

We are offering four varieties of Chinese chestnuts. We have not yet had time to find out if one is better than another. Zimmerman is the most erect tree.

CHINESE CHESTNUT TREES THAT HAVE RIPENED NUTS

If you are in a hurry for nuts you can get chestnut trees that already have ripened some nuts. A number of chestnut trees, 5-6 feet, 6-7 feet, 7-8 feet, have matured nuts. These trees have been carefully marked. If you want some of these proved trees add \$1.00 to the list price. All are grafted trees.

2 AMERICAN PERSIMMON. The flavor of this fruit is unexcelled and those who know it love it. The trees are pleasing features of a lawn and may be expected to do well on all but the higher elevations south of the line Boston—Albany—Buffalo. A tree that holds ripe fruit for a month or six weeks is an interesting and useful citizen of your yard.

If there is any streak of experimentation in you try planting some of these interesting persimmons. The trees are tall and cylindrical in shape.

3 CHINESE PERSIMMONS. One of the excitements of the year at Sunny Ridge Nursery has been Chinese persimmons grafted in nursery row and bearing all the fruit the trees had room for two years and six months after grafting. In growth habit they resemble pears. Grafted trees. Fruits $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches in diameter.

4 BUTTERNUTS! Sold out, try us next year, we may have some.

5 HONEY LOCUST. Eventually the most important thing I ever did may be the introduction of the honey locust as a forage crop. The way the honey locusts clustered themselves with long pods of beans is very suggestive of a great new forage crop and possibly also a commercial sugar crop. (see book Tree Crops). Big, fat sugary pods hang in masses and ripened on test trees of

both varieties that we offer. They have proved themselves in the Philadelphia climate. If you have a cow let her have a little fun. She likes candy as well as any girl. If you keep livestock in the pasture where these trees grow you will have to get up early in the morning if you expect to find any beans on the ground. They will have been eaten at dawn by the quadrupeds. Varieties: Calhoun and Millwood. No known difference between these two varieties as yet. The pods have been analyzed and found to contain 30% of sugar. That is the reason they are devoured so greedily.

These trees are precocious. Some produce beans when 10 feet in height. We have some 8-10 foot trees that can be planted in pastures above the reach of cows and therefore without special protection. Write for special prices for a field planting. Experiments show that pastures with gentle shade produce best. This result was obtained by the Tennessee station.

Plant 35 to 50 feet apart in pastures. You will get just as much grass or more and lots of corn substitute besides. The open top of their feathery foliage lets light through to the grass.

6 FILBERTS—For a long while I turned up my nose at filberts but I had a few trees. At last the handsome way they grow won my attention. Picking up the nuts won my affection. Eating them confirmed it, and now I'm an enthusiast starting a test orchard and selling the proved standard varieties. Try some. They are intimate yard trees and very good screens.

Barcelona is the heavy bearer and Du Chilly and several others are pollinators. You must have both. Please order Barcelona and pollinator. One pollinator to half a dozen Barcelonas is all right. Two are better. Plant six feet apart for a screen, fifteen to twenty feet apart in the open.

7 HAZEL NUT. Sold out.

NEW SHAGBARKS. THINNER SHELLS, BIG KERNELS

8 Perhaps you remember the long scales of bark on a tree that some called shellbark and others called shagbark (*Carya ovata* to be exact). You picked up the nuts with delight.

They were pretty, the flavor delicious, and you had difficulty in getting the kernels. Well, that's over. Enthusiastic members of the Northern Nut Growers Association have searched the woods from Canada to Carolina and found the master trees. The shagbarks we sell will give you most of their kernels in halves. These are genius trees.

If you fertilize the trees you will be surprised at the speed with which the shagbarks grow. I've seen them make 3 feet in a season. We have the following varieties, all good. Bridgewater, Fox, Griffin, Hagen, Heibner, Kirtland, Mann, Miller, Neilson, Romig, Weiker, Weschke.

A sure thing for the north. Don't miss this beautiful tree, unquestionably hardy and with nuts of unrivalled flavor. The parent trees are scattered all the way from the Great Smoky Mountains to Ontario and Wisconsin. Unless you know a lot about hickories the way to order is to give us your latitude and altitude and let us select the varieties. One of the dangers in moving trees is to get them too far north or south of the home of the parent tree. 30 feet apart.

9 PECANS. Tell us your latitude and altitude and let us select from our half dozen varieties. 40 - 80 feet apart.

10 BLACK WALNUT. Sold out.

11 ENGLISH WALNUT. We have a few trees of the new very hardy and rare Broadview, 40 - 50 feet.

12 TURKISH TREE HAZEL (*Corylus colurna*) This is a remarkably beautiful tree. It develops sharp conical shape with unusually perfect symmetry. The bark is of corky texture. Early to leaf out in spring and carries its leaf late in the autumn. Nuts are in a large burr, sometimes as many as 10 to the burr. It is a rapid grower, reaching 80 ft. in height.

13 HEARTNUT (*Juglans sieboldiana*). This Asiatic walnut is a rapid growing tree with leaves somewhat larger than the American black walnut. The bark and wood resemble the English walnut. The heart-shaped nuts yield their meats easily and are borne in clusters. The trees are rapid growers, reaching 30 to 40 ft. in height, shaped not unlike an apple tree.

14 CHINQUAPIN. This bush form of blight resistant native chestnut is living on in spite of the blight. The nuts are small but are the sweetest of all chestnuts. Very productive. An interesting hedge.

PRICE LIST FOR NUT TREES

SUNNY RIDGE NURSERY, SWARTHMORE, PA.

The Nursery is at Round Hill, Va., but the sales office is at Swarthmore, Pa.

This price list cancels all previous lists and will be cancelled when the next one appears.

All trees are grafted unless otherwise specified. Will be shipped by express, bare root and properly cut back unless some other arrangement is agreed upon.

Prices F. O. B. Railway Express office, Purcellville, Va. Please be sure to give correct shipping address. We do hate to send a tree to the wrong place. It is surprising how many people give a shipping address that is incorrect.

Terms: Cash with order.

If persons must have parcel post shipments we let them pay postage via C. O. D. (C. O. D. for the postage). Parcel post packages have to be small, sometimes undesirably small. We strongly recommend express.

Our stock is so limited in quantity that we cannot make any concession in price for large orders, except that we have a bargain in honey locusts that can be planted out in pasture fields with animals and without the need of special protection.

We cannot send trees with ball of earth. We have the large trees but the war has taken the diggers.

| | 1-2 ft. Ea. | 2-3 ft. Ea. | 3-4 ft. Ea. | 4-5 ft. Ea. | 5-6 ft. Ea. | 6-7 ft. Ea. | 7-8 ft. Ea. | 8-10 ft. Ea. | 10-12 ft. Ea. |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Chinese Chestnut (Grafted) † Zimmerman, Carr, Connecticut Yankee, Hobson | | | | \$4.50 | \$5.00 | \$5.50 | \$6.00 | | |
| Chinquapin Seedling | | 1.25 | | | | | | | |
| Heartnut | | 3.75 | 4.00 | | | | | | |
| Northern Pecan Busseron and several varieties | | | 4.50 | 5.00 | 5.50 | 6.00 | | | |
| PECAN x HICKORY HYBRID— HICCAN — SOLD OUT — | | | | | | | | | |
| Hybrid Hickory Fairbanks | | | 4.25 | 4.50 | 4.75 | 5.00 | 5.50 | | |
| Pure Shagbark (Grafted) | | | 4.50 | 5.00 | 5.25 | 5.50 | 5.75 | | |
| English Walnut (Grafted) Broadview | | 6.00 | 6.50 | | | | | | |
| Wiltz Mayette | | 5.00 | | | | | | | |
| American Persimmon (Grafted) | | | 2.75 | 3.00 | 3.25 | 3.50 | | | |
| Chinese Persimmon Grafted trees | | | 4.50 | 5.00 | 5.50 | | | | |
| Honey Locust (Grafted)† Thornless Calhoun and Milwood | | .75 | 1.00 | 1.25 | 1.40 | 1.50 | 1.65 | 2.25 | |
| Honey Locust Seedlings (For your own grafting. Transplanted) | | | .50 | .75 | | | | | |
| Mulberry—Everbearing | | | 1.25 | 1.40 | 1.60 | | | | |
| Filberts—Barcelona (pollenator) .. | | 2.00 | 2.25 | 2.50 | | | | | |
| Turkish Tree Hazel | | 2.50 | | | | | | | |
| Pawpaw Seedlings | 1.25 | | | | | | | | |

† Special price on honey locust in quantity.

OUR TREES ARE FOR THE NORTH

The rubber industry of the Far East is derived from the seed of Brazilian rubber trees grown in the greenhouses of Kew Gardens, London. The Kew trees were raised from seed carried from Brazil by Sir Clements Markham.

By a similar process, we are raising northern trees in the northernmost corner of Virginia on the slope of the Blue Ridge Mountain and expect them to do well in Massachusetts and Michigan. Here is the way we do it.

We use walnut seed from Minnesota, on seedlings of this tough origin we graft the Tasterite walnut which grows on the cold plateau near Ithaca, New York. This is our farthest North Walnut.

The cions of shagbark trees from Minnesota, from Michigan, and from Ontario, are grafted on young seedling trees grown from Quebec nuts. Persimmon seed from Northern Missouri and Kansas are grafted with cions of persimmons that have done well in Iowa. The seed for our grafted chestnut stocks has been imported from Tientsin, in North China. Our Chinese persimmons were imported personally from the extreme northern range of Chinese persimmons.

I have seen snow two feet deep at Sunny Ridge Nursery, and I have experienced temperatures of 30° below zero in that neighborhood.

The temperature records from Peking, China, and Omaha, Nebraska, are almost identical as to average temperatures for July and average temperatures for January.

Our Chinese persimmons and our chestnuts came from the vicinity of Peking, some of the persimmons from further west.

This should not, however, be taken as a statement that our persimmons will thrive in Omaha, Nebraska. I do not know. There may be quirks in the climate, such as spring thaws or warm November days, that make a difference. It should be clearly understood that the Chinese persimmons are offered experimentally. They are thriving in the nursery, which is in climate almost like that of Philadelphia, and we invite people to experiment with them. They bear early.

The chestnuts are doing well in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Here and there somebody gets them in a frost pocket and they die, while a man on higher ground 50 miles farther north has them thriving.

EARLY PLANTING. It is desirable to plant trees as soon as you can. The tree cannot start growth until it has got earth settled closely against its roots. It can then draw moisture and nutrients and begin business. (See our booklet on planting.)

If you can not get them planted early be sure that there are no air pockets beneath the roots and that the earth about the tree is soaked with water so that it makes a mud contact with the roots. That lets absorption begin.

NORTHERN NUT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

You probably will want to join. George L. State, Secretary, Geneva, N. Y.

This is a varied collection of interesting people (doctors, lawyers, merchants, manufacturers, professors, farmers, spinsters) who have nut trees for avocation—annual meeting an unusual summer vacation event.

Reading Guides For The Owner Of Nut Trees

1. THE PLANTING, FERTILIZATION, & CARE OF NUT TREES AND PERSIMMONS by J. Russell Smith, ScD, postpaid 25¢.

Don't buy good trees and then kill them by misguided care. This booklet will save you many times its cost and increase the results for all but the most skillful.

2. HOW TO GRAFT NUT TREES. Postpaid 25¢.

The real fun is to graft your own nut trees. It is not especially difficult but it does require special technique. This illustrated booklet tells just how to do it.

This booklet is Appendix F of the book *Tree Crops*. So you don't need both unless you want the booklet to carry around with you. More than one lady from town has taken this booklet and had the satisfaction of seeing a tree transform itself with her surgical aid.

Reading for Those Who Love the Land and Want To Know Their Country and Its Resources and Prospects

1. TREE CROPS, A PERMANENT AGRICULTURE,

by J. Russell Smith, ScD.

This book is 300 pages of pleasure to the person who loves trees or loves the earth or who likes to hear about things he never thought of before.

If you have a streak of ingenuity you will like this book. It tells how we are on the road to a whole new series of crops that grow on trees instead of on straw. Don't you want to have a hand in this new thing? The tree is nature's real engine of production and this book tells about some of them—Pecans, Persimmons, Hickories, Hybrids, Black Walnuts, English Walnuts, Honey Locust (cowfeed), Acorn bread and other things that are just over the hill waiting to come into your yard.

If you have a constructive imagination this book is likely to cause you to start something.

This book has been favorably reviewed by the Imperial Institute in London and from one end of the U. S. to the other.

A remarkably helpful and interesting book.—San Antonio Express.

This book is a thriller.—Bee, Sacramento, California.

This book for persons of special interest has been out of print for months. The commercial publisher, who works for profit, will not re-issue it. It happens that I wrote the book to spread an idea and so I have had a special printing made for the small but persistent demand of the people who want a better America.

Printing of small numbers is expensive, so our price has to be \$3.50 postpaid in United States or Canada. This is less than the commercial publisher asked.

The late Louis Brandeis read this book aloud to his wife when they were near 80 years old. Judges and others give it as presents to their friends.

2. NORTH AMERICA, THE CONTINENT AND ITS RESOURCES AS THE HOME OF MAN, by J. Russell Smith and M. Odgen Phillips, 1021 pages, \$4.75 postpaid, a study of the continent by producing regions such as Corn Belt, Cotton Belt, Southern California, the West Indies, the Plateau of Mexico, etc.

Used as an economic guide book by Educated Europeans. Put one in your automobile. It is a standard book without a rival in its field. It is **readable**. It will greatly enhance your pleasure and your understanding of the land as you make an automobile journey.

Keep either book five days and if you do not like it send it back. Your money will be promptly refunded.

**Address And Make Checks Payable To
SUNNY RIDGE NURSERY, SWARTHMORE, PA.**

Do not telephone Swarthmore about trees. Do not call there about trees. It is a strictly mail order office. The trees are far away on the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia. Your letters will receive prompt attention, so will your orders.

